

**Congressman Michael T. McCaul (R-TX)**  
**Ranking Member, Adjudicatory Subcommittee**  
**Committee on Standards of Official Conduct**

**Remarks as Prepared for Delivery Prior to Final Sanction Announcement**  
**November 18, 2010**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Today we have an opportunity to help restore honor and trust in this institution known as the People's House.

In my opinion, serving as a Member of Congress and as a public servant is the highest privilege, and all of us in this body should be held to a higher standard. That is why it is essential to the integrity and credibility of this institution that we hold our own members accountable to the fullest extent when they break the rules of the House. The rules are there to ensure ethical behavior and the public trust. Violating them violates the trust of the American people.

While sitting in judgment of a fellow Member is difficult, it is our duty. It sends a message to the American people that corruption in any form will not be tolerated and that that elected officials can police themselves, as the Constitution provides.

Earlier this week, those of us appointed to pass judgment on Mr. Rangel agreed unanimously on the disposition of 12 of the 13 counts against him—finding that Mr. Rangel violated multiple rules of the House of Representatives, several of which incorporate violations of federal rules and statutes.

The undisputed evidence included public statements from Mr. Rangel himself maintains that he must be held to a higher standard. That is exactly what we are attempting to do, and the American people are entitled to nothing less.

In considering the sanctions to impose against Mr. Rangel it should be taken into account that until recently he has shown little remorse or acceptance of responsibility for his actions. To the contrary, the exhibits demonstrate that on multiple occasions, he publicly stated his conduct did not violate House rules. In addition, when this hearing began on Monday Mr. Rangel chose to walk out of the proceedings.

Under House rules the Ethics Committee can consider a range of sanctions. The Committee cannot send a member to prison, as this is not a court of law.

The most extreme punishment is expulsion from the House. Historically this has been reserved exclusively for members convicted of crimes. Three occurred during the Civil War. One occurred in 1980 for a bribery conviction. Another in 2002, for convictions on charges that included bribery and fraud.

Another option is Censorship. In modern times members have been censured for criminal offenses but also for violations of House rules including the receipt of improper gifts.

As we deliberate in this matter Mr. Rangel needs to be held accountable and responsible not only to this committee or to this institution but also to the American people.

I sincerely hope that at the end of the day we will be able to begin an era of transparency and accountability, a new era of ethics that will restore the credibility of this House.

With that I yield back.